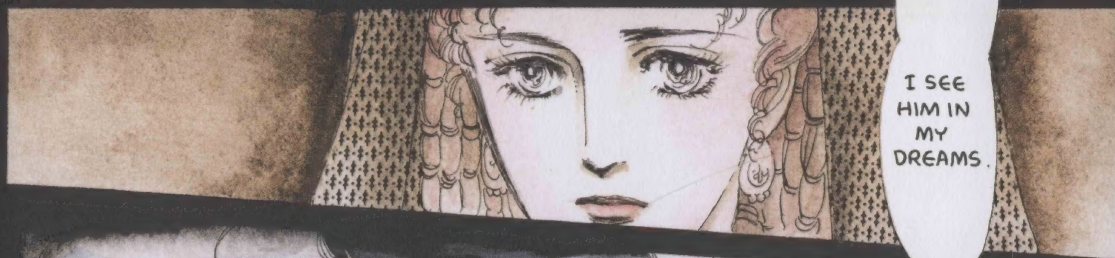


# A

## DRUNKEN DREAM







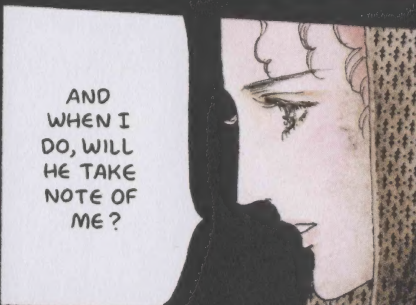
I SEE  
HIM IN  
MY  
DREAMS.



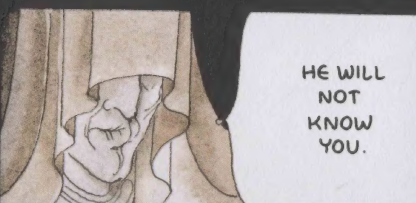
I  
ALWAYS  
HAVE.



YOU  
SHALL.



AND  
WHEN I  
DO, WILL  
HE TAKE  
NOTE OF  
ME?



HE WILL  
NOT  
KNOW  
YOU.



... WILL  
HE KNOW  
WHAT  
IS IN MY  
HEART?

AND...



TELL ME.

SHALL  
I EVER  
MEET  
HIM?

HE IS  
ALWAYS  
THERE.

PLEASE  
USE YOUR  
GIFTS.

TELL ME  
WHO HE  
IS.



...YOU  
WILL FIND  
YOURSELF AT  
HIS FEET ...

BEFORE  
YOU  
HAVE A  
CHANCE  
TO LET  
HIM  
KNOW...

...IT HAS  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
THUS.

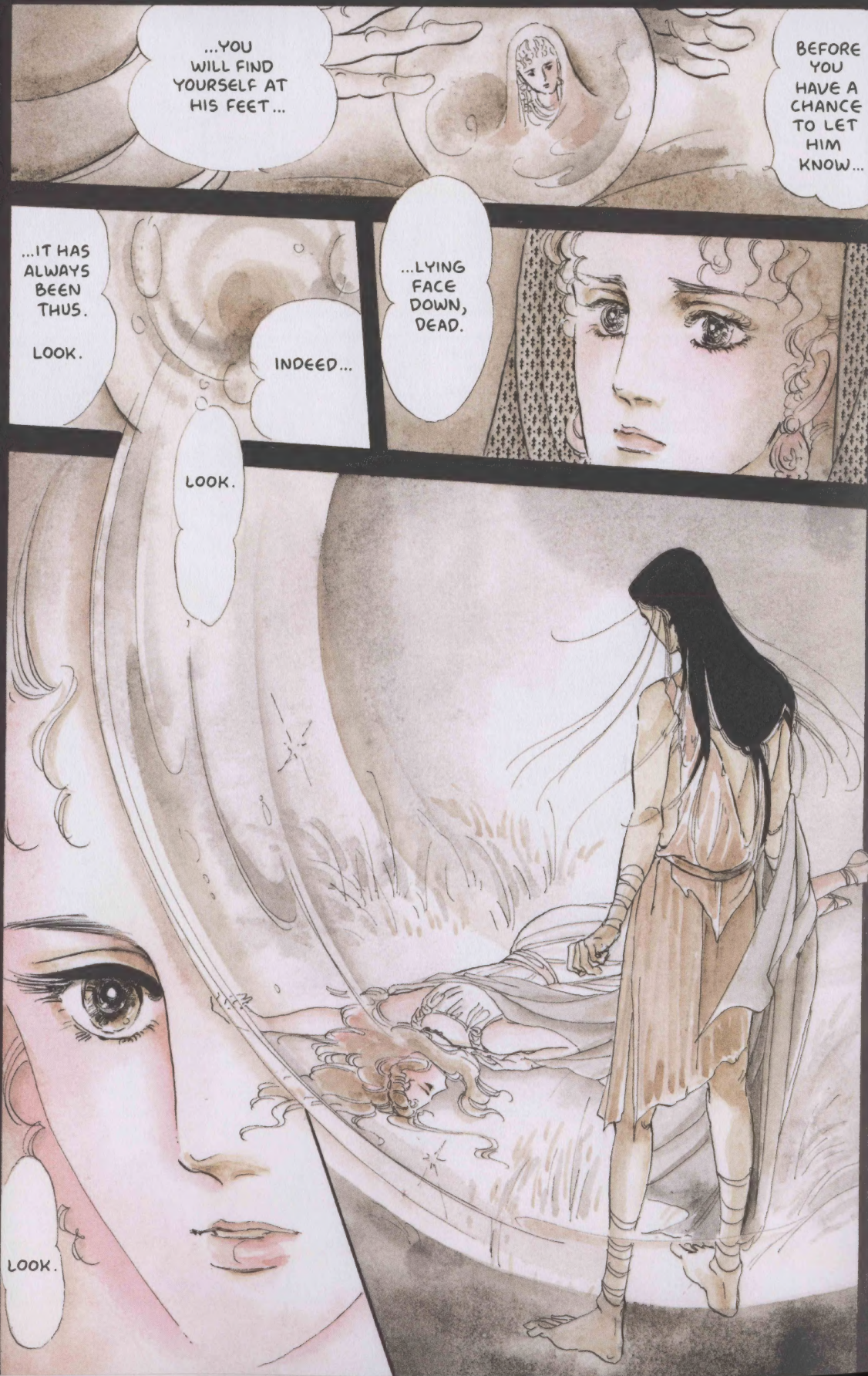
LOOK.

INDEED...

...LYING  
FACE  
DOWN,  
DEAD.

LOOK.

LOOK.







AL-  
WAYS.

EACH  
TIME  
...

...  
THE  
SAME.

THE  
SAME  
...



AL-  
WAYS.



IT IS  
ALWAYS  
THUS.





LEM,  
EVERYONE  
ELSE IS  
ALREADY  
DOWN-  
STAIRS.

YES,  
SIR?

YAWN

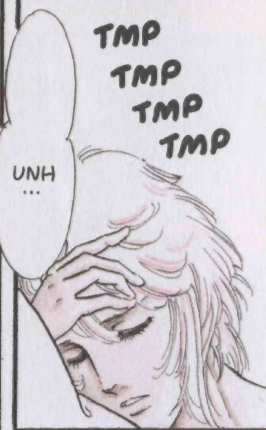


JUST WHEN  
I WAS  
TRIPPING...

LEM.

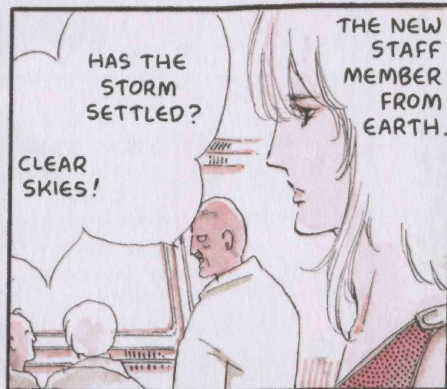
DR.  
PALMINO.

YEAH.  
HOLD  
ON.



TMP  
TMP  
TMP  
TMP

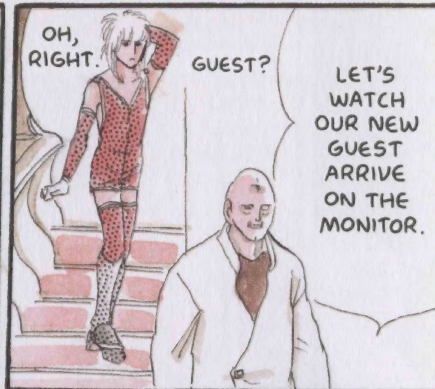
UNH  
...



HAS THE  
STORM  
SETTLED?

CLEAR  
SKIES!

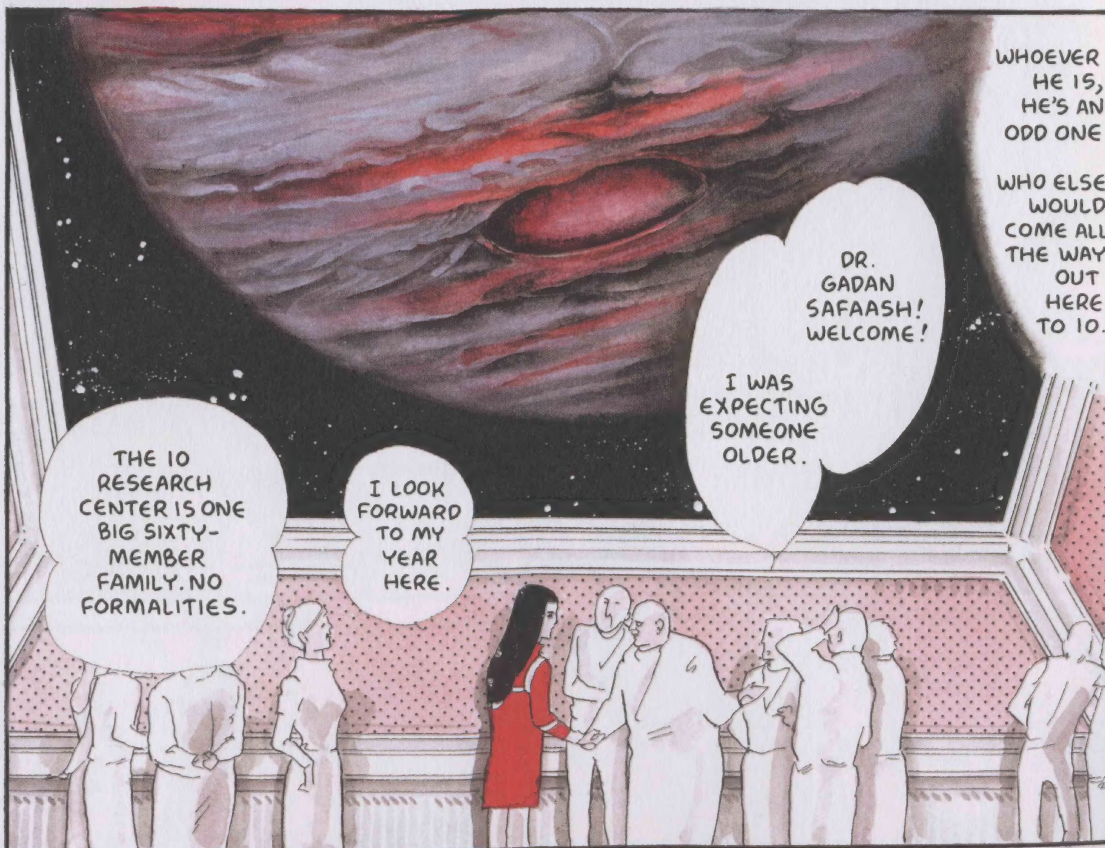
THE NEW  
STAFF  
MEMBER  
FROM  
EARTH.



OH,  
RIGHT.

GUEST?

LET'S  
WATCH  
OUR NEW  
GUEST  
ARRIVE  
ON THE  
MONITOR.



THE IO  
RESEARCH  
CENTER IS ONE  
BIG SIXTY-  
MEMBER  
FAMILY. NO  
FORMALITIES.

I LOOK  
FORWARD  
TO MY  
YEAR  
HERE.

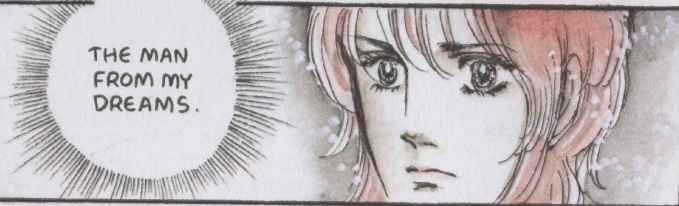
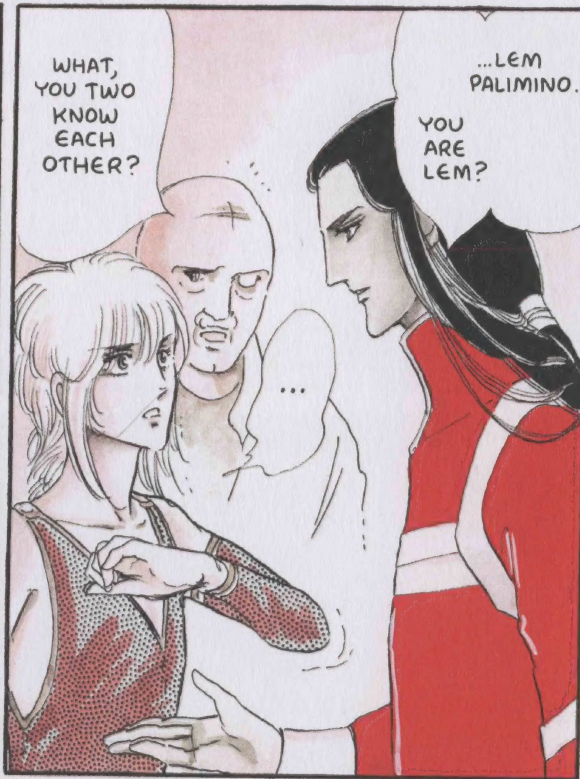
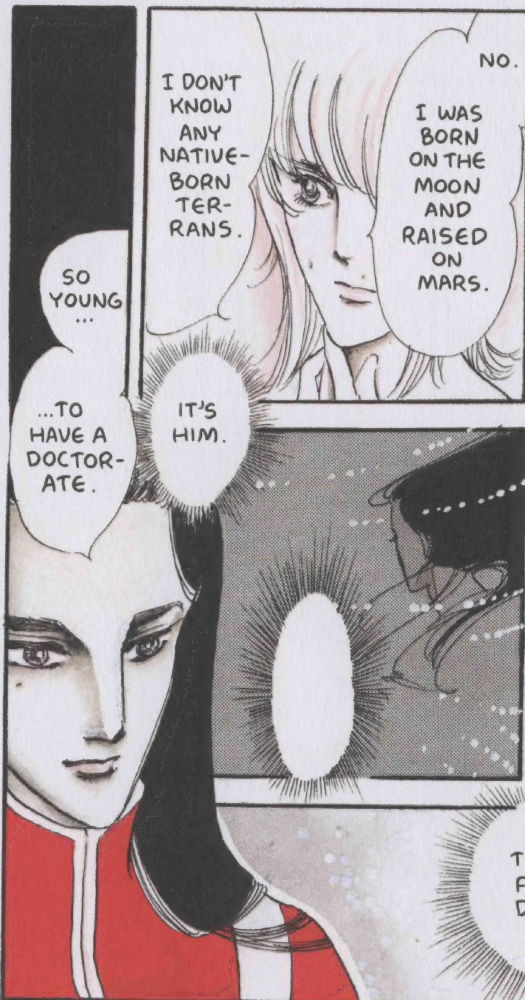
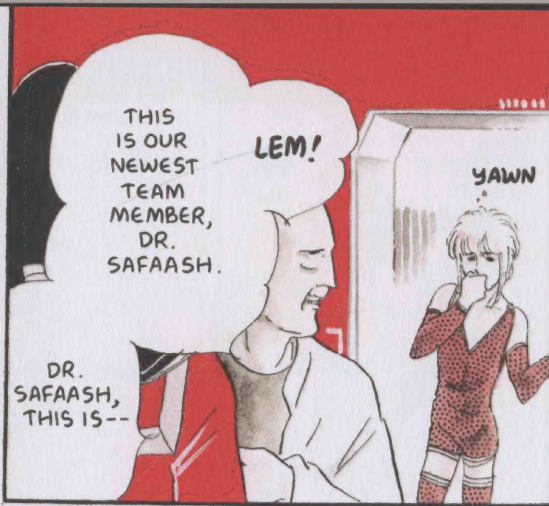
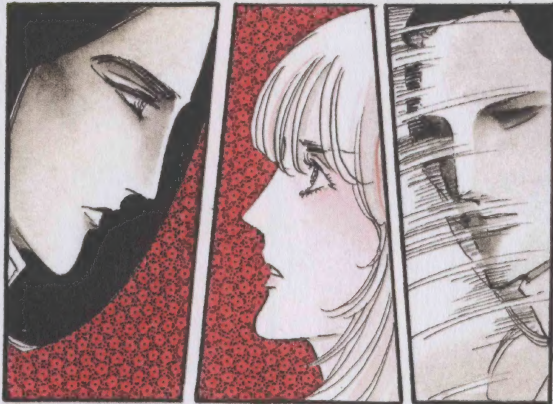
I WAS  
EXPECTING  
SOMEONE  
OLDER.

DR.  
GADAN  
SAFAASH!  
WELCOME!

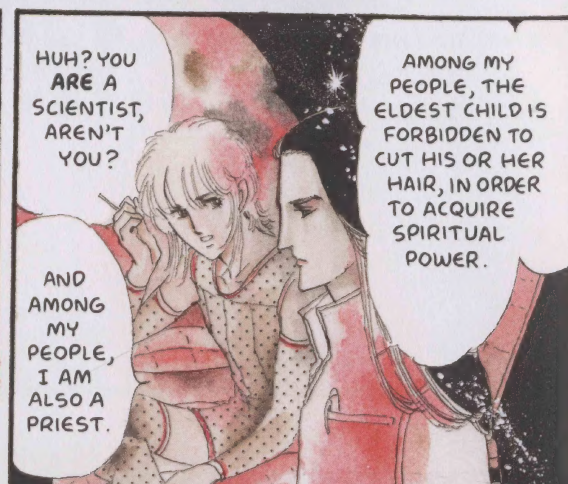
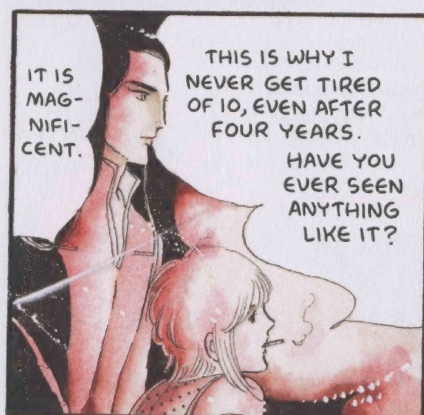
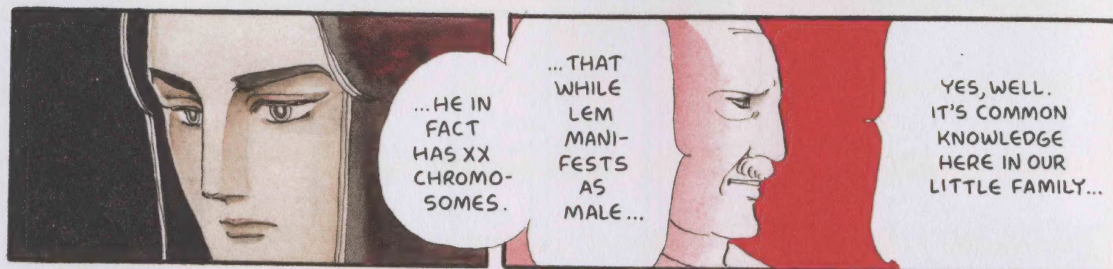
WHOEVER  
HE IS,  
HE'S AN  
ODD ONE.

WHO ELSE  
WOULD  
COME ALL  
THE WAY  
OUT  
HERE  
TO IO.







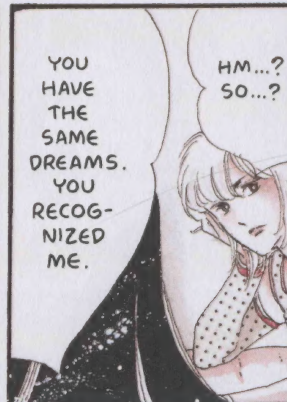






YOU AND I ARE  
ENDLESSLY  
REBORN,  
EXPERIENCING  
THE SAME  
EVENTS OVER  
AND OVER  
AGAIN.

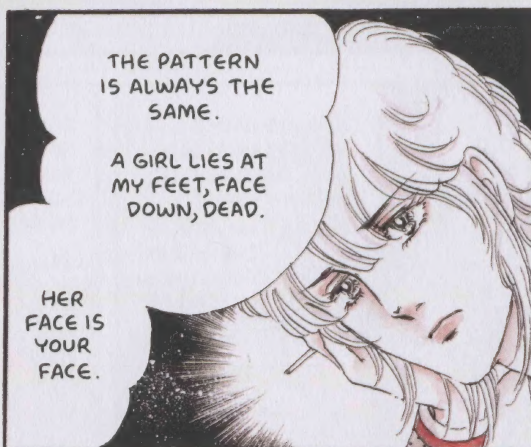
LEM, IT IS NO  
DREAM. THESE  
ARE PAST MEM-  
ORIES, WOVEN  
WITHIN ME.



YOU  
HAVE  
THE  
SAME  
DREAMS.  
YOU  
RECOG-  
NIZED  
ME.



IN MY  
DREAMS.



THE PATTERN  
IS ALWAYS THE  
SAME.

A GIRL LIES AT  
MY FEET, FACE  
DOWN, DEAD.

HER  
FACE IS  
YOUR  
FACE.



NOBODY HERE  
IS GOING TO DIE  
FACE DOWN! THE  
DIRECTOR TOLD  
YOU, DIDN'T HE?

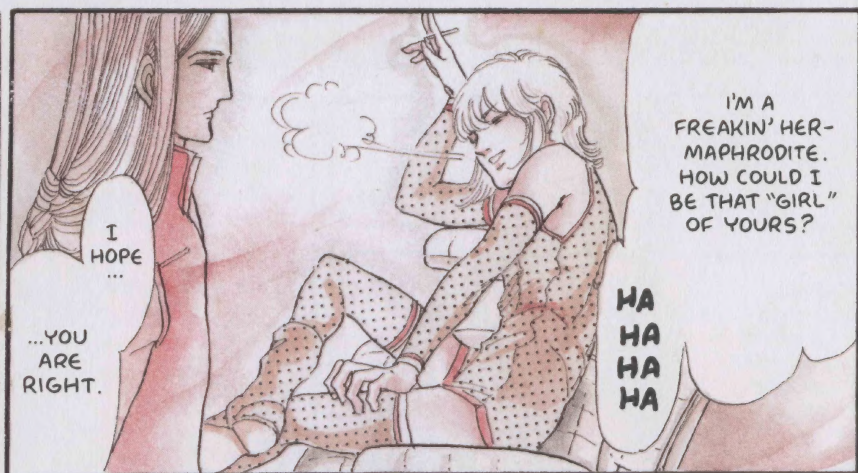
HUH.  
EITHER  
WAY...

YOU'RE  
JOKING,  
RIGHT?  
OR IS  
THIS  
ANOTHER  
THING  
"AMONG  
YOUR  
PEOPLE"?

OVER  
AND  
OVER?  
SO IT'S  
GOING  
TO  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN?



HA! TRUST  
ME! I HAVE NO  
INTENTION OF  
DYING ANYTIME  
SOON!



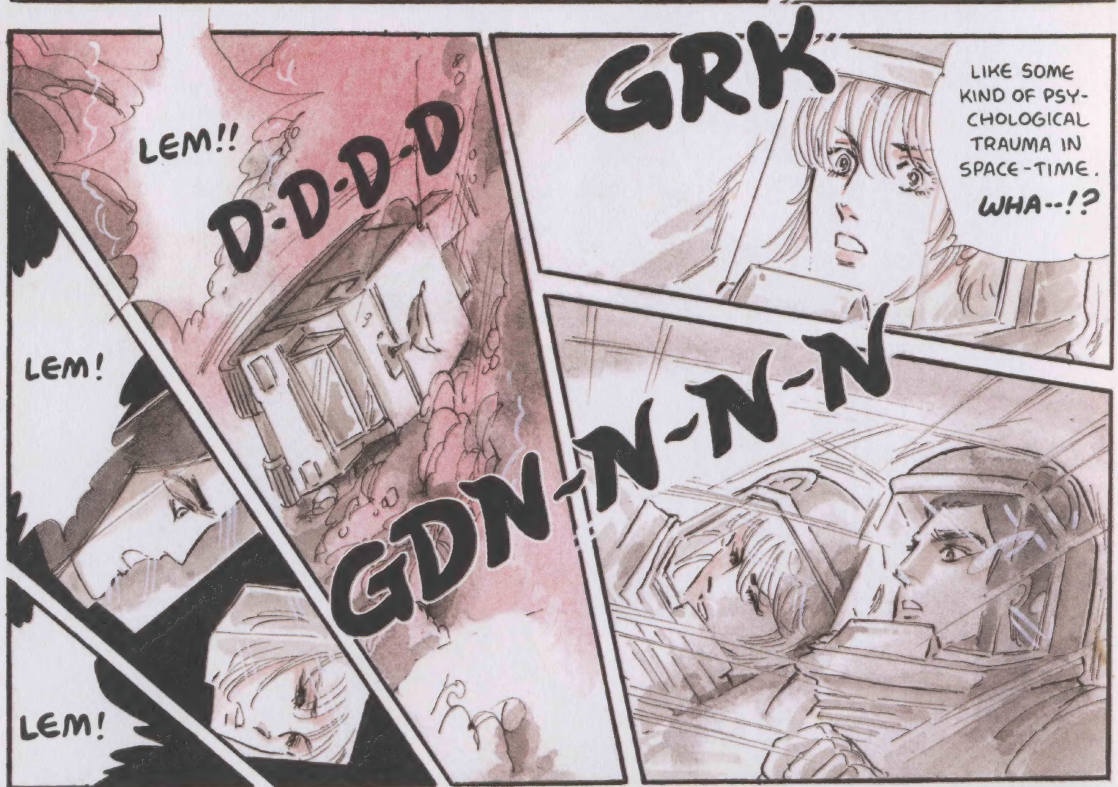
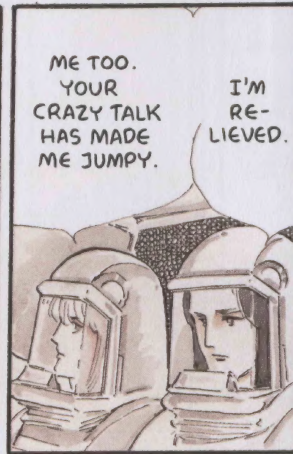
I  
HOPE  
...

...YOU  
ARE  
RIGHT.

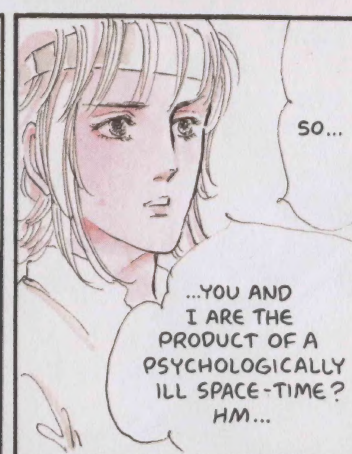
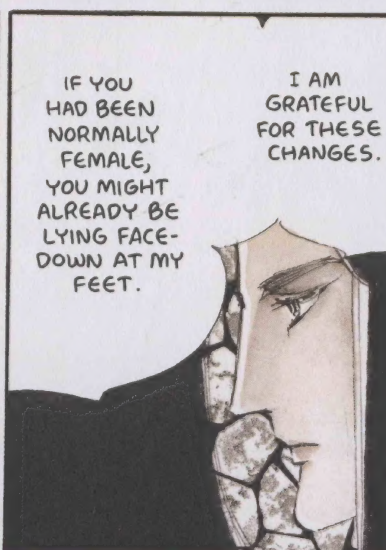
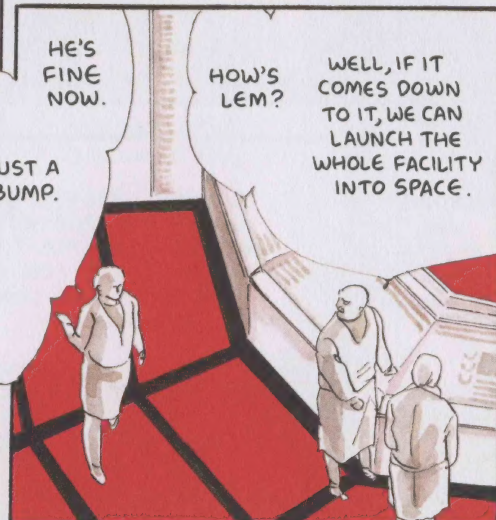
I'M A  
FREAKIN' HER-  
MAPHRODITE.  
HOW COULD I  
BE THAT "GIRL"  
OF YOURS?

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA

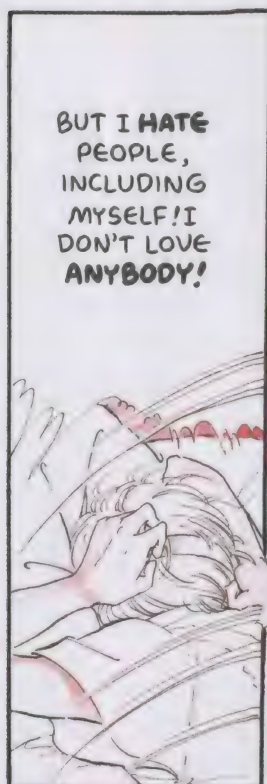




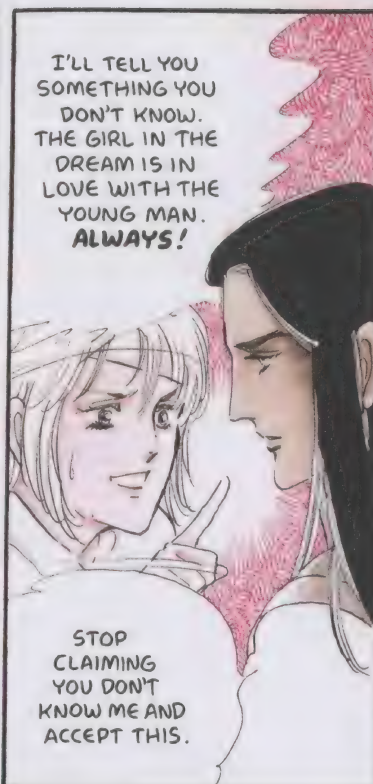








BUT I HATE  
PEOPLE,  
INCLUDING  
MYSELF! I  
DON'T LOVE  
ANYBODY!



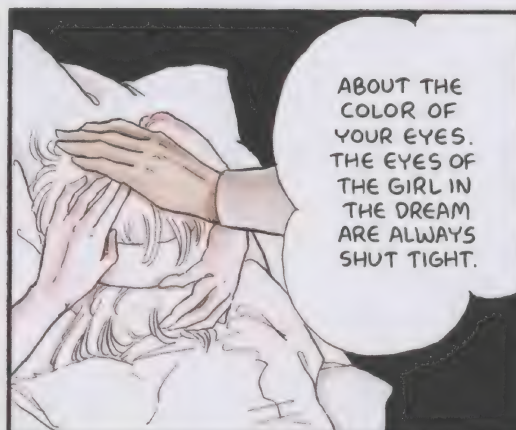
I'LL TELL YOU  
SOMETHING YOU  
DON'T KNOW.  
THE GIRL IN THE  
DREAM IS IN  
LOVE WITH THE  
YOUNG MAN.  
ALWAYS!

STOP  
CLAIMING  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW ME AND  
ACCEPT THIS.



HEY,  
YOU!  
GIVE IT  
A REST,  
WILL  
YOU!?

SCREW THIS  
REPETITION! I'D  
LIKE TO FILE  
A COMPLAINT  
WITH THIS  
SPACE-TIME.  
WHAT THE HELL  
AM I, ANYWAY!?  
SOME KIND OF  
PAWN!?



ABOUT THE  
COLOR OF  
YOUR EYES.  
THE EYES OF  
THE GIRL IN  
THE DREAM  
ARE ALWAYS  
SHUT TIGHT.



I  
ALWAYS  
WON-  
DERED...



THE  
COLOR  
OF  
YOUR  
EYES  
...



AH-H...

THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING MARRIED AND BEING A HOSTAGE.

YOUR PARENTS IN THE NORTHERN LANDS MUST BE SO RELIEVED. NOW SMILE FOR HIS MAJESTY.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU WERE SENT HERE AS DIPLOMATIC HOSTAGE, YET YOU CAUGHT THE EYE OF THE KING, AND TOMORROW YOU'RE TO BE MARRIED.

MY HEAD ACHES.

I'M NOT FEELING WELL.

THE KING HAS PUT DOWN THE REBELLION AND RETURNED. YOU MUST GREET HIM.

PRINCESS PALIO.



IN THE YEAR I'VE BEEN GONE YOU'VE GROWN MORE LOVELY THAN EVER.

PRINCESS PALIO!

THE TURKISH STONES I'VE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE WEST WILL SUIT YOU WELL.



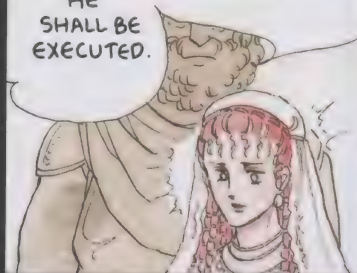
HOW ABOUT SOME OF THESE FINE-LOOKING SLAVES FROM THE WEST?

LET ME SHOW YOU MY SPOILS. WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?





TOMORROW,  
BEFORE  
OUR  
WEDDING  
CEREMONY,  
HE  
SHALL BE  
EXECUTED.



THAT'S NO  
SLAVE! THAT'S  
MY YOUNGEST  
BROTHER, WHO  
JOINED WITH  
THE WESTERN  
LANDS AND  
REBELLED.



MAJ-  
ESTY.  
THAT  
SLAVE  
THERE.  
I WANT  
HIM.

IT'S HIM! THE  
MAN FROM MY  
DREAMS!



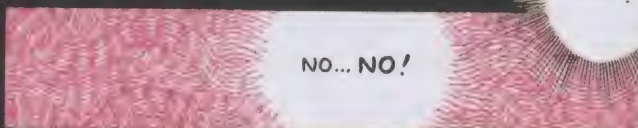
EXE-  
CUTED



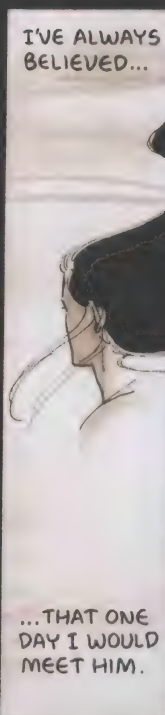
HIM?



NO... NO!



I'VE ALWAYS  
BELIEVED...



KILLED?

HIM?



SPARE HIM!

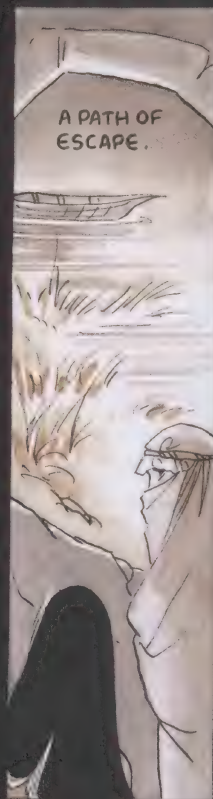
SPARE  
HIM!!



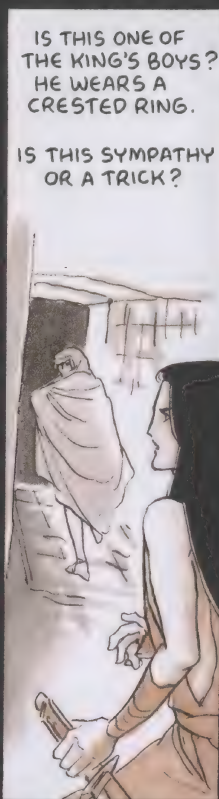
...THAT ONE  
DAY I WOULD  
MEET HIM.

I'VE DREAMED OF HIM  
SO LONG. I'VE LOVED  
HIM SO LONG.



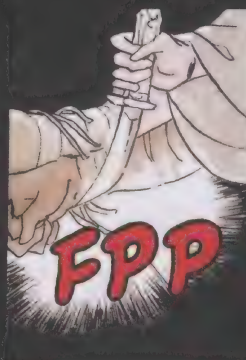


A PATH OF  
ESCAPE.



IS THIS ONE OF  
THE KING'S BOYS?  
HE WEARS A  
CRESTED RING.

IS THIS SYMPATHY  
OR A TRICK?



SHH  
...



EYES OF  
OBSIDIAN.

THEY ARE A  
MYSTERY. BUT  
I HAVE NO TIME  
FOR SOLVING  
MYSTERIES.



YOU  
HAVE  
MY  
THANKS.

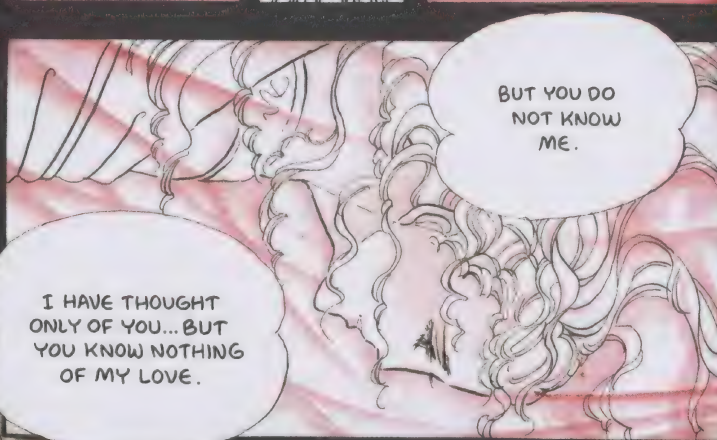




I KNEW YOU  
WOULD  
COME TO  
ME SOME  
DAY.

A  
GIRL?

YOU  
...



BUT YOU DO  
NOT KNOW  
ME.

I HAVE THOUGHT  
ONLY OF YOU... BUT  
YOU KNOW NOTHING  
OF MY LOVE.



IF THIS TRAITOR IS  
CAUGHT, HE COULD  
TELL THEM THE  
DIRECTION OF MY  
ESCAPE.

...!



OPEN  
YOUR  
EYES.  
PLEASE.

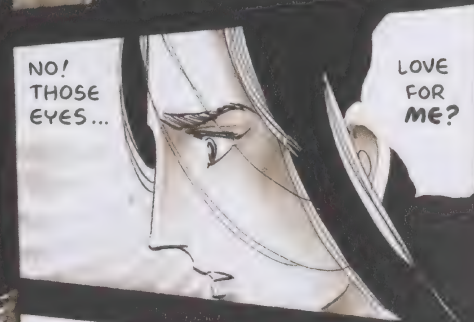
COME BACK  
TO LIFE...

...AND GIVE ME  
A CHANCE TO  
SOLVE THIS  
MYSTERY!



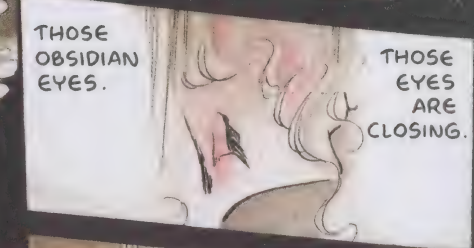
NO!  
THOSE  
EYES...

LOVE  
FOR  
ME?

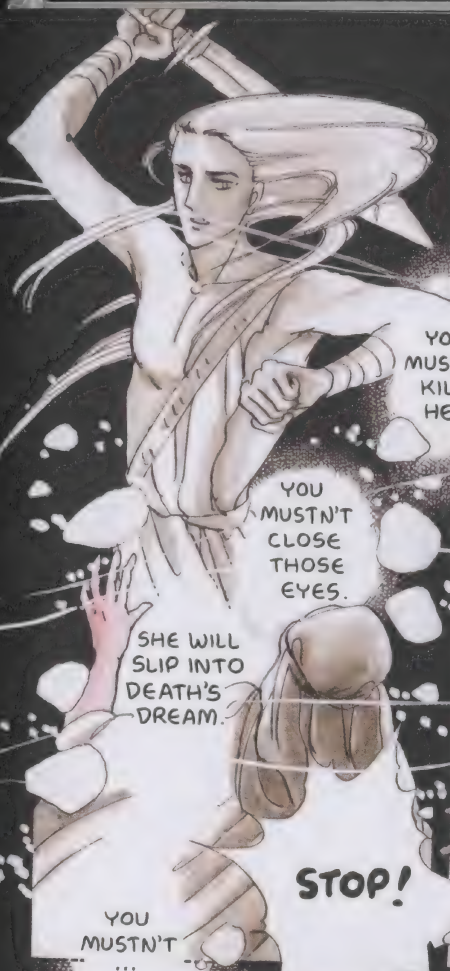


THOSE  
OBSIDIAN  
EYES.

THOSE  
EYES  
ARE  
CLOSING.







WAIT!

HAD  
I JUST  
LOOKED  
INTO  
THOSE  
EYES  
AND  
BELIEVED  
...

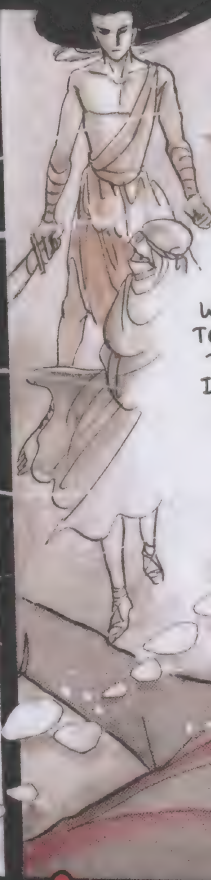
YOU  
MUSTN'T  
KILL  
HER.

YOU  
MUSTN'T  
CLOSE  
THOSE  
EYES.

SHE WILL  
SLIP INTO  
DEATH'S  
DREAM.

STOP!

YOU  
MUSTN'T  
...

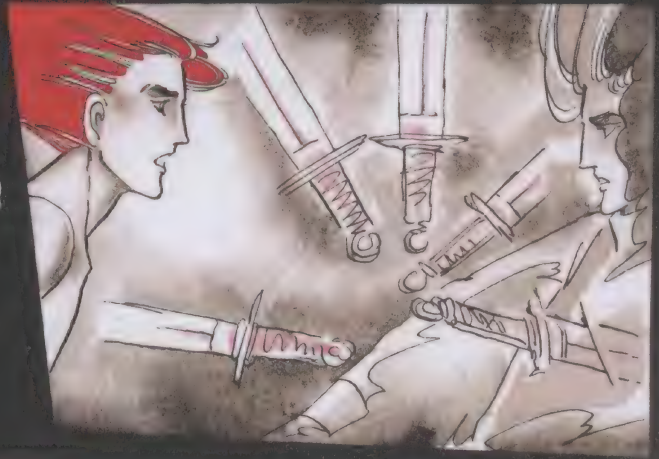


I'VE  
FOUND  
IT!

WHAT A  
TERRIBLE  
THING  
I HAVE  
DONE!



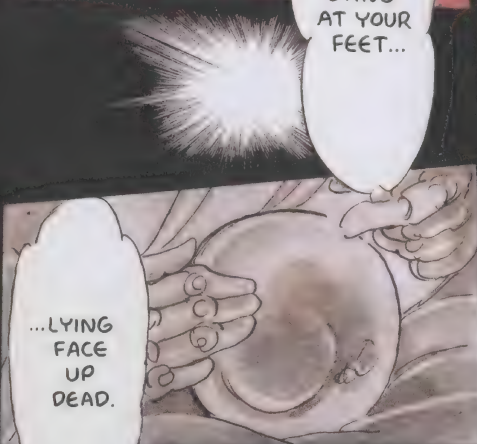




THAT  
LOVE  
SHALL  
NEVER BE  
CONSUM-  
MATED.



YOU  
SHALL  
SEE HIM  
LYING  
AT YOUR  
FEET...



...LYING  
FACE  
UP  
DEAD.







IT IS  
ALWAYS  
THUS.



ALWAYS  
THE  
SAME.



YOU  
SHALL  
LOVE

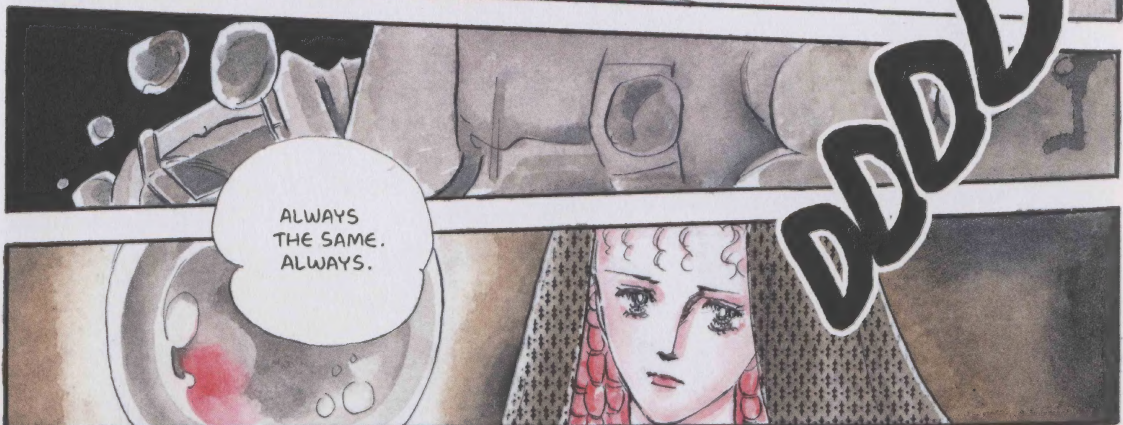
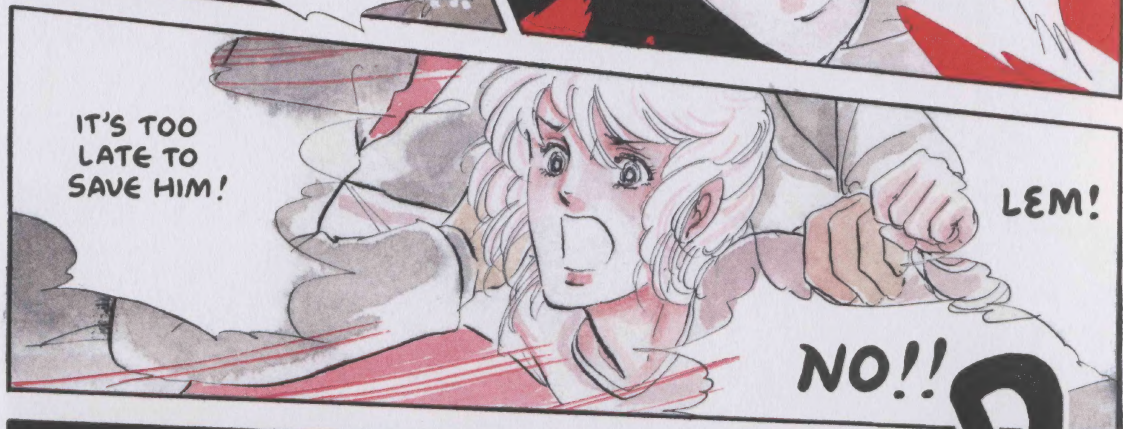
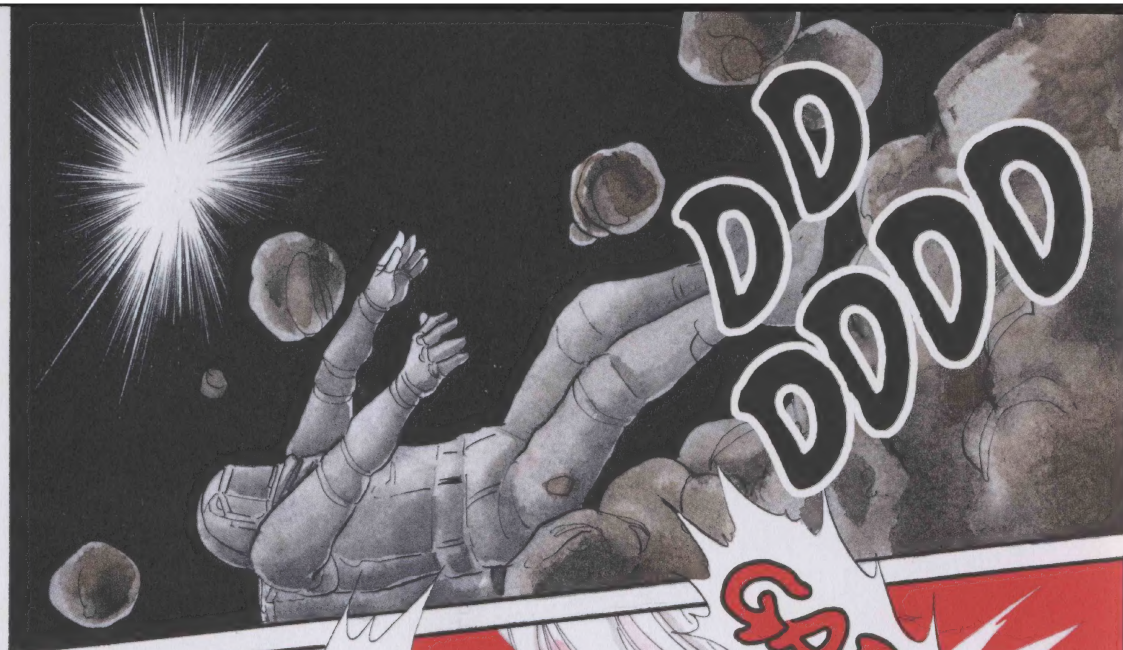
...BUT  
NOTHING  
SHALL  
REMAIN  
BUT  
SORROW.



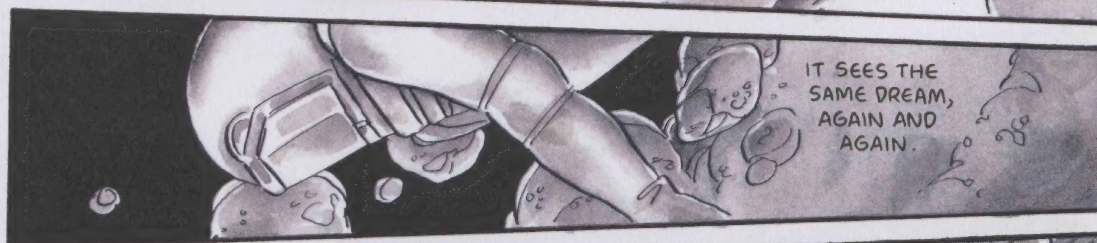
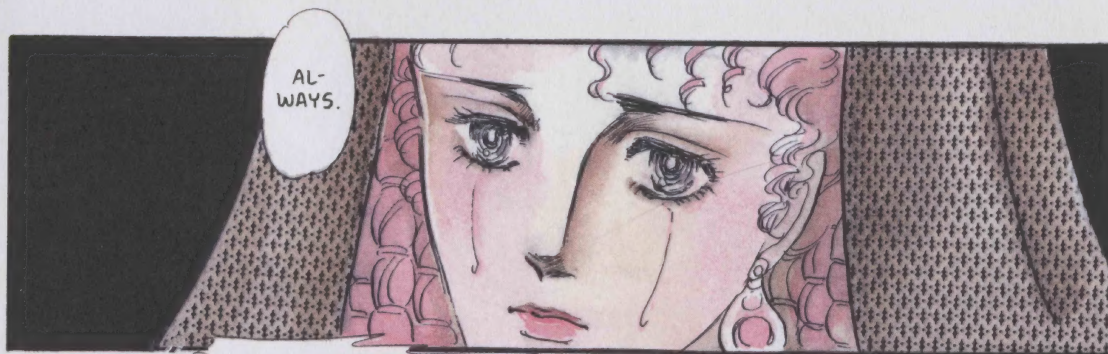
THERE  
SHALL  
NEVER  
BE  
FULFILL-  
MENT.













TIME GOES ON WEEPING  
...  
DRUNKEN, SINGING  
AS IT SINKS DOWN  
TO THE DEPTHS OF THE DREAM.



END